

BG Tod Carmony: Opening Statements

- 1) Q: How do you feel the events like the explosion at Ben-AF would influence the overall view of the security situation in the sector?**

A: Well it very negatively impacted the security situation and as we pointed out as long as we have problems like that it is going to discourage investment in this area. So it's important that all citizens that know of criminal activity report that to KPS which increasing is doing a better job, CIVPOL or KFOR so we can prevent incidents like this from happening. We were very lucky we didn't have more people injured in that explosion.

- 2) Q: Do you think that such incidents will harm the overall security situation in your area of precedence?**

A: We feel this was a criminal event that wasn't directed at KFOR. Continued incidents like this would effect the security situation here and we would have to take additional action; but hopefully it was an isolated event.

- 3) Q: Driton Ramadani of Radio Ferizaj: In your speech you mentioned you have got additional equipment and you are ready to respond to any situation. Do you have any indication that there will be any unrest in the future? And there is also much speculation in the Belgrade media regarding unrest.**

A: We do not have any indication of unrest in the future. The elections were very peaceful, Albanian flag day with the large crowds at () went very well. But as you are aware in response to the violence in March, KFOR and KPS continue to try and improve their ability respond to difficult crowd situations. So we are just continuing that process of improving our ability to respond and be better equipped to do so.

- 4) Q: Demush Zetig of Bota Sot: Their has been information that in Kosovo there is a presence of Al Quida, and it has been written in the Serbian media that MNB(E) is in danger by this, and it is said that these Al Qaeda are active close to the Bondsteel Camp. Do you have any information regarding this or if we can inform the public if we can?**

A: As you are aware we have significant intelligence capabilities and we have no indications that KFOR Soldiers or Camp Bondsteel is under any threat at this time.

- 5) Q: General how would comment on the information or the publications in the media that the German had information regarding the events of March?**

A: I really don't have a response to that, I know a little about what you are talking about but I am not familiar enough to really make a good comment.

6) Q: Zeri: Mr. General in the East sector that is under the responsibility of the Americans in the last years a lot of Serbians have returned, the ones that have been displaced. And one of the best stories is of (), of now up to 31 families have returned. Of course there has been much contribution from local authorities and KFOR. At the same time we have had information and it has been in the media that there has been a publication of a book, the secret mission of KFOR, where there has been confessions of a former Soldier who has served in Bondsteel with a spy mission and he has had shocking revelations that Bondsteel's mission is to cleanse the Serbs of Kosovo. What are your comments?

A: The individual who wrote the book was not a Soldier. My understanding is that he was one of the Civilian interpreter contractors. I think it is obvious to anybody who has watched MNB(E) of the last years, that we and particularly the Americans are firmly committed to a Multi-ethnic Kosovo. SO despite his allegations nothing could be further from the truth.

7) Q: In your speech sir, you have said that you have received additional equipment and that national caveat's have been removed and we are all training to respond to situations being non-lethal to combat crowd control. The question is what do you really try to convey with this what are the additional equipments that you receive, and what are the caveat's that have been removed?

A: As you are aware in the March 17 violence there were some caveat's with our Multi-national partners throughout the province, that prevented a prompt response to some situations. COMKFOR has worked with many of the political entities of our coalition to improve the ability of various national forces to reinforce from one sector another sector and to engage in appropriate crowd control of necessary. Reference the equipment we have received some additional riot control protection gear and my understanding is that KPS is also starting to issued some more appropriate protective gear also. Which I think is really excellent that the KPS is starting to get some protective gear.

Q: Regarding the explosion in Ben-Af it has been a while that is has happened and still nothing had been brought to light. Who do you think was involved in this event and how long do you think it will take to be resolved?

A: Our current assessment is that it was a criminal act. We continue to meet on a regular basis with KPS to get some understanding of the progress that is being made with the investigation. Because of the explosion and the extensive fire that followed; it is a difficult crime scene to investigate and even though we would like to see it move forward quickly, as you are well aware these things take a long time to develop appropriate evidence so that prosecution can take place. The sad part is over 200 people are out of work because of this incident and they were all innocent of

anything. So I would encourage all citizens to continue to cooperate with the KPS in this investigation.

1LT William Geddes: Does anyone have any further questions? Thank you all for coming today.

CG Carmony: Thank you.